Adoption of Children

1668. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have finalised the revised guidelines on adoption of children;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which those are likely to be finalised and issued?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) No Sir. The revised guidelines on adoption are under consideration of the Ministry.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Demand for Descheduling of Mochi Community in Gujarat

119. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE . Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a persistent demand for descheduling of the Mochi community in Gujarat in General, except in certain identified districts or areas;

(b) if so, what is the precise stand taken by Gujarat Government in this regard; and

(c) what is the Central Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) to (c) It has been represented that Mochi community which is presently notified as Scheduled Caste throughout the State of Gujarat may be specified as such only in relation to the areas of Dangs district and Unbergaon Taluk of Bulsar district. The State Government has also made the same recommendation. This issue alongwith other cases is before an Advisory Committee set up for revision of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe lists comprehensively. The report of the Committee is awaited.

Supreme Court Verdict regarding the Rights of SCs/STs

1670. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have been considering the questions of amending the Constitution of India to do away with the adverse effects of the Supreme Court's judgement of July 21, 1994 in so far it impinges on rights of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe incumbents in a state within the meaning of Article 341(1) being entitled to similar benefits in Central Government and other States;

(b) if so, what decision has been taken in this regard; and

(c) what follow up action is being taken in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) to (c) The Supreme Court in its judgement dated 18th July, 1994, in writ Petition No. 898 of 1990, amplified the implication of Articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution as per which SC/ST lists are to be operated State/UT-wise so that the SC/ST benefits can be availed of by persons belonging to these categories only from the State of origin and not from the State to which migrated.

However, the issue of inter-State Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe migrants, inter-alia, is under consideration of an Advisory Committee which has been constituted by the Government to examine various issues relating to comprehensive revision of SC/ST lists. The report of the Committee is awaited.

National Policy on Family

1671. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news item captioned "National Policy on family stressed" as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 22nd October, 1994 ;

(b) if so, whether there is a persistent demand for a national family policy; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) one of the recommendations of the National Seminar on International Year of the Family held in New Delhi on 15th May

1994 has been that the Government may examine the need for a holistic national policy based on the goals of family well-being. The detailed recommendations of the National Seminar which emphasize on formulation of family focussed programmes/policies have been calculated to the Ministries/Departments for examination and implementation.

Jobs provided to SC/ST/OBC

1672. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state the number of candidates of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes provided jobs in various categories during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement on Reservations for Women

1673. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether at the National Convention on Reservations held in Delhi, the Minister of Welfare observed that benefits of reservation in public employment and educational institution should be extended to women; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal and Government's decision, if any taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A proposal to provide reservation for women in service is under consideration in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

Observations made by Chairman National Human Rights Commission on Plight of Women

1674. SHRI K.M. KHAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government attention has been drawn to the observation made by the National Human Rights Commission that helpless men and women deprived of company and home, live a miserable life in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that old age homes provide refuge but the aged do not find care, comfort and affection in these homes;

(c) whether Government propose to take some measures in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARMA KESRI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are Old Age Homes set up by the voluntary organisations with the assistance from Central Government. Some State Governments have also set up Old Age Homes. The degree of care, comfort and affection in these Homes may vary.

(c) and (d) The Government is already implementing a Scheme for the Welfare of the Aged. The Scheme envisages setting up of Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres and Medical Mobile Units for the care, comfort and support of the aged. The Government is also taking measures for strengthening the family as a social unit. Government had drawn up a National Action Programme for observing the International Year of the Family 1994.

The following main activities were undertaken during the year :

(i) Organising a national Seminar on the International Year of the Family on the theme "Enhancing the role of the Familie as an Agency for Social and Economic Development".

(ii) Creation of awareness regarding need for strengthening the family system through newspaper advertisements, posts and Seminars, meetings, etc.

(iii) Issue of Commemorative Postage Stamp and Commemorative Coin on the International Year of the Family.